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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4817  
INFO RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 5347  
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 0517  
RUEHVT/AMEMBASSY VALLETTA PRIORITY 0416  
RUEHZO/AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE  
RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TRIPOLI 000391

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/MAG, PRM, AND DRL/NESCA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 5/14/2019  
TAGS: [SMIG](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [PREF](#) [KTIP](#) [IT](#) [LY](#)  
SUBJECT: LIBYA TAKES BACK 500 ITALY-BOUND MIGRANTS

REF: TRIPOLI 273 TRIPOLI 00000391 001.2 OF 002 CLASSIFIED BY: Gene A. Cretz, Ambassador. REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

1.(C) Summary: Implementation of a key component of the Italian-Libyan "friendship agreement" has begun, as Italy has returned approximately 500 Italian migrants to Libya. Italy turns back over 500 migrants interdicted at sea.

2.(C) Libya has accepted the return of three tranches of migrants interdicted or rescued at sea by Italian authorities in recent days, beginning with the first group of 227 returnees arrived in Tripoli on May 7. A regional IOM team in Tripoli implementing a G/TIP-funded workshop to enhance a "HANDFUL" OF MIGRANTS ARE LIKELY ASYLUM SEEKERS

3.(C) The first group of 227 returnees arrived in Tripoli on May 7. A regional IOM team in Tripoli implementing a G/TIP-funded workshop to enhance a "HANDFUL" OF MIGRANTS ARE LIKELY ASYLUM SEEKERS

4.(C) IOM staff here characterized the recent returnees as "the usual suspects" of Nigerian, Nigerien, Ghanaian, and South Asian nationality. The joint patrols to begin this week but enforcement may be short-lived

5.(C) Shortly after Libya and Italy exchanged instruments of ratification of the friendship and cooperation treaty in March 2009, Italian embassy in Tripoli

6.(C) Comment: Post does not have direct access to immigrant detention centers. Over the past year, contacts have described the facilities as r